

# National Heritage Areas Alliance Update

ANHA

## News from the Heritage Areas

### Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area launches Web site

The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area is now just a click

away. A newly launched web site allows visitors to explore the history and culture of the region through articles and photographs.

Documentation

about estuarine waterways, Ship Island and Piney Woods is featured on the site as it news, upcoming events and contact information. For the history buff, there is information on local Civil War sites, Antebellum structures and Old Spanish Fort, which dates back to a time when the region was still part of the British Empire. Learn more about the landscape, culture and history of the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area online at its new site, [www.msgulfcoastheritage.ms.gov](http://www.msgulfcoastheritage.ms.gov).



### Schuylkill River Heritage Area Partners with Exelon Nuclear to create new Schuylkill River Watershed Restoration Program.

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area (SRHA) has awarded three grants totaling more than \$136,000 from the recently established Exelon Schuylkill River Watershed Restoration Program. This is the first year money has been available through the program, which was created by Exelon Nuclear in January. Exelon will now contribute annually to the fund, which is being overseen by the Heritage Area. This year, selected projects included agricultural improvements, stream bank restoration, and headwaters restoration. "This allows us to reach out to non-profit organizations who are going to have an immediate impact, as a result of these projects, on the quality of water that will eventually find its way into the Schuylkill River," said Kurt Zwinkl, executive director of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area.

Fund recipients were chosen by a committee made up of representatives from Exelon, the Delaware River Basin Commission, Philadelphia Water

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## ANHA Plans for Future, Recognizes Contribution of John Cosgrove, First Executive Director

As the Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) enters its second decade, planning is underway to ensure the organization's continued vibrancy. Founded in 1997, the ANHA promotes the principles and benefits of heritage development through education, leadership and the sharing of best practices. ANHA holds annual spring and fall business meetings, which are hosted by a Heritage Area, as well as an annual February meeting in Washington, DC. It also partners closely with the National Park Service (NPS) on projects and publications, data collection and information exchange.

In 2004, ANHA took a huge step forward when the organization hired its first Executive Director, John Cosgrove. An experienced heritage area practitioner, Cosgrove had previously served as Executive Director of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley in northeast Pennsylvania. During his tenure at the Alliance, Cosgrove worked to spread the organization's mission across the country and around the world, developing partnerships with regional nature parks in France.

Effective July 1, 2008, Cosgrove resigned as Executive Director to assume a new position with Condron & Company, a Marketing, Media, Advertising and Public Relations firm headquartered in Scranton, PA. Under a transitional services agreement with the ANHA, Cosgrove will continue to work part time on several key projects through October 31st. Reflecting on his time with ANHA, Cosgrove remarked, "I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the people of ANHA to advance the heritage development movement in America. Their dedication and focus on improving the quality of life in every corner of this country has been impressive and inspiring. While I am grateful and excited about this new professional opportunity, I will surely miss working with all of the good, creative and fun folks of the movement. All the best to everyone!"

Commenting on Cosgrove's time as Director, Dayton Sherrouse, Chairperson of the ANHA, stated "the Alliance will miss the leadership and dedication that John provided in advancing the growth of the ANHA." Michelle McCollum, Vice-Chairperson of the ANHA, added, "for many years John has been the face of the ANHA and his enthusiasm and passion for the heritage area movement was contagious to the membership and also to others across the country interested in becoming a national heritage area.

Although his professionalism and his extensive knowledge of the heritage area program were true assets to our organization, it will be his energy, his wit and his friendship that I will miss the most."

Over the summer, Chairman Sherrouse appointed a Transition Team to develop a short term strategic plan for the Alliance and to determine what course of action ANHA would take in replacing Cosgrove. The team, consisting of the Executive Committee and all committee chairs, met in Atlanta on August 11th at a gathering facilitated by Joe Dibello, National Park Service Northeast Regional Office. The results of this meeting will be presented to the Board of the ANHA for approval at its next business meeting scheduled for October 8-10 in Asheville, NC.



*John Cosgrove at the 2007 ANHA annual meeting in Washington DC*



*Signing Ceremony for MOU with French Regional Nature Parks at 2007 International Heritage Development Conference in Detroit, MI*

Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Environmental Protection, and the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. The annual fund is part of a demonstration project for the water diversion program at Exelon Nuclear's Limerick Generating Station and is under the purview of the Delaware River Basin Commission. The SRHA and Exelon plan to seek additional corporate contributions to expand the fund for future years.

## Connecticut and Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area Team Up to Promote Local History



*Gunn Historical Museum in Washington, CT*

A pilot project designed to give the public a new, enticing view of Litchfield County's historical treasures, and to help educators and public historians use the region's historic sites effectively is now underway. Called "Locally Grown History - It's In Your Backyard," the project is a partnership between the University of Connecticut, the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area and the Northwest CT Convention & Visitors Bureau. Robert Forbes, assistant professor of history at UCONN-Torrington, has taken the lead by organizing a group of educators, directors, curators, and volunteers from local organizations to collaborate on the project. "Northwest Connecticut is a treasure trove of historical gems. We want to help make the public aware of them, and to guide educators in how to teach with them," says Forbes.

Since Litchfield County, CT is geographically large, the project packages the area's varied historical assets and agricultural resources into a "trail" so that visitors can easily move from one to another as a day or weekend destination. Anticipated outcomes include the creation of a revenue base for the area's historic sites and the growth of problem-solving networks among personnel at the sites. At the same time, the project aims to re-brand Northwestern Connecticut as a vibrant cultural tourism destination on a par with neighboring states. The project also encourages integrating the historical resources with educational programs at institutions from K-12 to higher education.

"Locally Grown History" began on Labor Day and features prizes for people who visit the sites and keep track of the visits on "passports." It culminates on Oct. 18 and 19 with special exhibits and a forum at the Torrington campus that will include workshops and panel discussions. The program on Sunday, Oct. 19 will include addresses by Connecticut State Historian Walter Woodward and Carl Nold, President of Historic New England. Visit <http://www.locallygrownhistory.org> for more information on the project.

## Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition Unveil New Waysides

The Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition, local coordinating entity for the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, will deliver 41 new wayside exhibits to 32 central Illinois communities throughout the late summer and fall. The exhibits are a series of storyboards, complete with pictures, images and historical text that share information about Abraham Lincoln and his connection to the state. They are termed "wayside exhibits" because they will be placed along streets and sidewalks to make them more accessible to visitors.

"The delivery of these wayside exhibits marks the first wave of new Abraham Lincoln storyboards for central Illinois to enhance the visitor experience" said Hal

Smith, director of the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition. "By next summer (2009), we plan to deliver a total of 220 of these exhibits to 47 communities to help them more vividly tell their own Lincoln story."



*One of 41 new waysides celebrating the story of Abraham Lincoln in central Illinois*

## Symbol of Champlain Valley's Past Travels to Seven Historic Ports

In June, the replica canal schooner Lois McClure set sail from Burlington, Vermont to Québec City, Canada to participate in the city's 400th anniversary celebration. Built by the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (LCMM) in 2004, the Lois McClure is modeled after two 19th century Lake Champlain shipwrecks. Samuel de Champlain founded Québec City in 1608—a year before he voyaged to the lake that bears his name. After leaving Lake Champlain, the Lois McClure stopped at port communities on the Richelieu and St. Lawrence rivers. More than 25,000 visitors boarded the boat, which the crew likens to a "time machine."

During the voyage, a bi-lingual National Park Service interpretive ranger joined the LCMM crew, informing French-speaking visitors about the vessel, the canal systems, and the shared heritage of Vermont, New York and Québec. On July 2, the boat served as a



*Replica Canal Schooner Lois McClure underway near her home port of Burlington, Vermont.*

platform for a special event where Québec City Mayor Régis Labeaume and Québec Premier Jean Charest greeted the Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Delegation. The group was led by U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, who was accompanied by his wife, Marcelle Pomerleau Leahy, the chair of the Lake Champlain Franco-American Heritage Committee. Mrs. Leahy and other American delegates displayed their Québécois heritage by addressing the crowd in French. The Lois McClure's "Our Shared Heritage" tour was funded by the National Park Service in partnership with the three National Heritage Areas of New York: the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, and the Hudson River National Heritage Area. In-kind support was provided at every Québec river port by staff and volunteers from historic sites, museums, and community groups, which provided additional bi-lingual interpretation, hosted special events, and shared meals with the crew.

Learn more about this exceptional journey by reading the ship's logs at

[http://www.lcmm.org/our\\_fleet/lois\\_mcclure\\_ships\\_logs.htm](http://www.lcmm.org/our_fleet/lois_mcclure_ships_logs.htm).

Plans are underway to send the Lois McClure to port communities along Lake Champlain, the Champlain Canal, and the Hudson River next year to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the 1609 explorations of Samuel de Champlain and Henry Hudson and to celebrate the places named for them. Visit the official websites to learn more about 2009 Quadricentennial planning efforts in New York <http://www.exploreny400.com/> and Vermont <http://www.champlain400.com/>.

## Derrick Serves as Gateway to Oil Heritage Region

A dedication ceremony was held Wednesday morning in Titusville to celebrate the completion of the "Titusville Community Gateway." A crowd of over 60 people including community members and elected officials attended the event to hear the speakers' remarks about the gateway, the Community of Titusville, and the Oil Region National Heritage Area. "We are pleased that the Alliance could be a part of this collaborative effort," remarked Randy Seitz, President of the Oil Region Alliance. "The oil



## National Trust Loan Fund

The National Trust Loan Fund (NTLF) supports preservation-based community development projects. As a certified Community Development Financial Institution, it has a mission of providing financial and technical resources to organizations that use historic preservation to support the revitalization of underserved and distressed communities. NTLF specializes in predevelopment, acquisition, mini-permanent, bridge and rehabilitation loans for residential, commercial and public use projects. Eligible borrowers include not-for-profit organizations, revitalization organizations or real estate developers working in designated Main Street communities, local, state or regional governments, and for profit developers of older and/or historic buildings. For more information, visit [www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org)

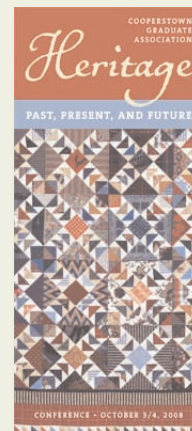
## Transportation Enhancements (TE) Funding

In 1991, Congress created a fund to encourage states to dedicate transportation money to community development, expanded transport options and transportation-related historic preservation projects. Transportation Enhancement (TE) activities offer funding opportunities through 12 eligible TE activities related to surface transportation, including pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and safety programs, scenic and historic highway programs, landscaping and scenic beautification, historic preservation, and environmental mitigation. For more information visit [www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/te/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/te/)

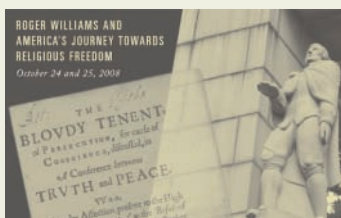


## Heritage: Past, Present, and Future Conference in Cooperstown

The Cooperstown Graduate Association will be holding its annual conference, Heritage: Past, Present, and Future on October 3-4, 2008. Friday's schedule includes workshops on oral history, historic districts, and new technology available to museums, as well as tours of the collections of the New York State Historical Association and The Farmers' Museum. Friday evening, a free public lecture by Rachel Bliven of the Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission will address heritage tourism—what it is, who is involved and how to plan for it. Saturday's conference program will feature ten speakers as well as a session exploring the use of documentary film, lasers and ground-penetrating radar, and the web-based Quilt Index to make the past more understandable and accessible to a broader audience. For more information, contact Cindy Falk or Cathy Raddatz at the Cooperstown Graduate Program at 607-547-2586 or by email at [falkcg@oneonta.edu](mailto:falkcg@oneonta.edu) or [raddatc@oneonta.edu](mailto:raddatc@oneonta.edu). A complete schedule and registration information are available at: [http://www.oneonta.edu/academics/cgp/misc/CGAConference\\_2008.pdf](http://www.oneonta.edu/academics/cgp/misc/CGAConference_2008.pdf).



## Roger Williams & America's Journey Towards Religious Freedom Conference in Providence Sponsored by Blackstone River Valley NHC



In 17th-Century New England, many considered religious freedom to be a dangerous notion, even punishable by death. Still, there was one place where religious liberty was the rule, in Roger William's Rhode Island. How did religious freedom thrive in Rhode Island, surrounded by colonies where persecution was common? How much progress have we, as a nation, made in tolerating others' religious beliefs and practices? What role do sacred sites play in connecting Americans to the history of religion and religious freedom in the U.S.? These questions and more will be addressed on October 24th and 25th during the Roger Williams & America's Journey Towards Religious Freedom Conference in Providence. For more information, contact Ranger Chuck Arning [[Chuck\\_Arning@nps.gov](mailto:Chuck_Arning@nps.gov)] or visit the website below <http://www.nps.gov/blac/historyculture/religious-freedom-conference.htm>

## 2009 National Scenic Byways Conference Seeks Proposals

The National Scenic Byways Conference is seeking experienced and knowledgeable instructors, leaders, researchers and professionals to contribute to the conference within five core learning areas: Finances, Corridor management, Visitor experience, Byway organization and Marketing. The deadline is January 15, 2009. For more information, visit <http://www.bywaysresourcecenter.org/events/conferences/>



## For more information on heritage areas, please visit our websites.

*The Alliance Update is a partnership project of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and the National Park Service National Heritage Areas Program.*

Send your heritage area events and news to the editor by the 18th of the month for inclusion in the following month's bulletin.

Please forward this bulletin to others who may be interested, and encourage them to join our e-bulletin address list.

- Reach the editor at [Eleanor\\_Mahoney@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:Eleanor_Mahoney@contractor.nps.gov)
- To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email to the editor.

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derrick is very fitting, reminding everyone of the events that took place here during the oil boom years. Soon along Interstate 80 in Barkeyville the second derrick of this size will be built to denote to travelers that they are in the Oil Region National Heritage Area."

The gateway sports a 32-foot wooden replica oil derrick with an Oil 150 flag flying from the top.

Using green technology, the gateway includes solar power to light the derrick throughout the night. "As we look at this structure might it



*Titus Community Gateway Dedication Ceremony in the Oil Region NHA*

remind us to stand tall and be proud that we are from the region of the birthplace of the oil industry, the valley that changed the world," stated Chris Fiely, President of the Titusville Renaissance. This project was financed in part by a Pennsylvania Heritage Program Grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation via the Oil Region Alliance. Matching funds were provided by the County of Crawford, and the Crawford Heritage Foundation.

## Silos and Smokestacks Works With Partners to Better Welcome Visitors to the Region

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) continues to draw a growing number of visitors from throughout the Midwest. To prepare, designated partner sites, along with various welcome centers, received SSNHA Welcome Signs, Silos & Smokestacks...At a Glance 2008 guides and Silos & Smokestacks 101 training. Welcome signs will not only serve as a greeting at or near the first point of visitor contact, but will also serve as a resource tool. Attached to the back of each welcome sign is the Silos & Smokestacks...At a Glance 2008 guide, which gives a quick reference on Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area and available resources. SSNHA is also holding Silos & Smokestacks 101 trainings. Formerly called SSNHA Resource Training, Silos & Smokestacks 101 is a free, one-hour training session where SSNHA representatives come on site to help staff and volunteers around the Heritage Area explain what SSNHA is, as well as familiarize them with tools available to better serve visitors.

## Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area

Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area is comprised of eight counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Created by an act of Congress and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1996, Rivers of Steel is coordinated by the non-profit Steel Industry Heritage Corporation (SIHC) whose board represents the region's diverse population and economic makeup.



*Interpretive Kiosk in Kittanning, PA*

Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area's mission is to conserve, promote and interpret the cultural, historical and recreational resources associated with steel and steel-related industries, and to develop uses for these resources so they contribute to the continued economic revitalization of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Rivers of Steel's goal is to ensure that the region's remarkable industrial history and the living legacy of the people of Southwestern Pennsylvania endure for

generations to come. Among its recent projects to further this goal, Rivers of Steel launched its TourAnytime network, a self-guided cell phone audio service for visitors to southwestern Pennsylvania. Working in partnership with regional museums, local arts organizations and historic sites, Rivers of Steel will offer 100 tours on a single cell phone number.

This year Rivers of Steel also saw its border expanded to include Butler County. Butler County will become the eighth southwestern Pennsylvania County to be served by Rivers of Steel. Its inclusion is the result of the combined efforts of local officials and community leaders who successfully proposed the idea to the Butler County Commissioners and the County's state and federal legislative delegations. Butler County's steel-related industries included its major steel producer, Butler Armco, Bantam and Pullman-Standard that used steel in making road vehicles including the prototype for the World War II military jeep.

Rivers of Steel is working in partnership with Allegheny County on a major regional initiative, the Great Allegheny Passage, a biking and hiking trail linking Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. Rivers of Steel is renovating the historic Pump House and Water Tower, the site of the dramatic 1892 Battle of Homestead, as a trail head for the 325-mile trail slated for completion in 2009. The final phase of the Pump House's restoration will include removing a 30-foot flood wall to restore the site's landscape to that of 1892, installation of a marina and large tour boat dock, a river walk trail and construction of a replica Pinkerton barge for performing arts events.



*Young Brothers Machine Shop*

Rivers of Steel will begin the stabilization of the W. A. Young Brothers Machine Shop, a rare industrial gem that dates back to the early 1900s. One of Rivers of Steel's preservation priorities, the planning and restoration of this heritage site is a collaborative effort led by Rivers of Steel in cooperation with Greene County Historical Society, Greene County Board of Commissioners, Friends of the Foundry and citizens of Rices Landing. The long term goals are to make this facility safe for public tours and to have the site designated a National Historic Landmark.



*View of Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area*

A new signage program will provide communities within Rivers of Steel's borders with an affordable graphics package for the production of interpretive kiosks. Rivers of Steel worked with the city of Kittanning to produce a model kiosk that provides visitors with a map identifying historic landmarks and amenities such as restaurants, marinas, and ATMs. Interpretive panels with historic photos, interesting facts and anecdotes about the community capture its unique character and history. Rivers of Steel's signage program offers dual benefits: access to a high-quality, professional, graphic standards package that can be adapted to a community's unique attractions and amenities; and, access to grant funding to help pay for the production and installation of the kiosks.

## RIVERS OF STEEL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Rivers of Steel's strength and success comes from its vast network of community and regional partnerships. When Rivers of Steel was created in 1996, it became the mechanism for doing what had only been talked about in southwestern Pennsylvania – creating an effective program that fostered regional cooperation. Rivers of Steel was the first project in southwestern Pennsylvania tasked with cultivating and maintaining this type of public and private coalition, and it has met the test with more than 350 heritage development projects that are underway or have been completed in the eight-county area.

Featured National Heritage Area